

MARKED UP CLAIMS

54. (Four Times Amended) A non-safety-releasable snowboard binding to mount a snowboard boot to a snowboard, the snowboard boot [including] having a first engagement member mounted thereto, the snowboard binding comprising:

a base; and

a second engagement member, mounted to the base, that is adapted to mate with the first engagement member to engage the snowboard boot to the binding, the second engagement member being an active engagement member that is movable relative to the base between a first state wherein the second engagement member does not engage the first engagement member and a second state wherein the second engagement member engages the first engagement member to prevent safety release of the boot from the binding during riding, and wherein the active engagement member is automatically movable, in response to the snowboard boot stepping out of the binding, from the second state to the first state.

61. (Four Times Amended) [A non-safety-releasable snowboard binding to mount a snowboard boot to a snowboard, the snowboard boot including a first engagement member mounted thereto, the snowboard binding comprising:

a base; and

a second engagement member, mounted to the base, that is adapted to mate with the first engagement member to engage the snowboard boot to the binding, the second engagement member being an active engagement member that is movable relative to the base between a first state wherein the second engagement member does not engage the first engagement member and a second state wherein the second engagement member engages the first engagement member to prevent safety release of the boot from the binding during riding, and wherein the active engagement member is automatically movable, in response to the snowboard boot stepping out of the binding, from the second state to the first state] The snowboard binding of claim 55, wherein the second engagement member further includes at least one stop adapted to inhibit migration of the first engagement member when engaged with the pair of spaced apart engagement members.

73. (Three Times Amended) A system for mounting a rider to a snowboard, the system comprising:

a snowboard boot [including] having a first engagement member mounted thereto; and
a snowboard binding comprising;

a base; and

a second engagement member, mounted to the base, that is adapted to mate with the first engagement member to releasably engage the snowboard boot to the binding, the second engagement member being an active engagement member that is movable relative to the base between a first state wherein the second engagement member does not engage the first engagement member and a second state wherein the second engagement member engages the first engagement member to inhibit lifting of the boot from the binding during riding, and wherein the active engagement member is automatically movable, in response to the rider stepping out of the binding, from the second state to the first state;

wherein the active engagement member is further automatically movable, in response to the rider stepping into the binding, from the first state to the second state, wherein the first engagement member includes a cleat having a base mounted to a sole of the snowboard boot and medial and lateral sides, and wherein the second engagement member includes a pair of spaced apart engagement members each adapted to engage one of the medial and lateral sides of the cleat; and

wherein each of the medial and lateral sides of the cleat tapers along a length of the cleat from a wider toe-end portion of the cleat to a narrower heel-end portion of the cleat, and wherein the pair of spaced apart engagement members is spaced apart by a distance that is greater than the narrower heel-end portion of the cleat and smaller than the wider toe-end portion of the cleat.

74. (Three Times Amended) A method of interfacing a first engagement member [on] mounted to a snowboard boot with a second engagement member, on a snowboard binding, that is engageable with the first engagement member to mount the snowboard boot to the snowboard binding and prevent safety release of the snowboard boot from the snowboard binding during riding, wherein at least one of the first and second engagement members is an active engagement member that is moveable, relative to the one of the snowboard boot or the snowboard binding on

which the active engagement member is located, between an open position and a closed position, the method comprising a step of:

- (A) stepping the snowboard boot out of the snowboard binding so that the active engagement member automatically moves from the closed position to the open position without operating a lever on the snowboard boot or the snowboard binding, so that the first engagement member is disengaged from the second engagement member.